

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, RP
SUBJECT: MANILA PRESS LISTS 2,081 DETAINEE RELEASES SINCE
- APRIL ELECTIONS

1. SUMMARY: MANILA PRESS IN RECENT DAYS HAS PUBLISHED
LISTS OF 631 PERSONS GIVEN AMNESTY AND 1,450 OTHERS
ORDERED RELEASED FROM MILITARY DETENTION SINCE APRIL 7.
PRESS ALSO NOTES THAT 522 PRISONERS IN CIVILIAN JAILS
WERE RECENTLY GIVEN EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY, AND THAT AMNESTY
COMMISSION HAS RECOMMENDED AMNESTY FOR 306 PERSONS UNDER
NEW PRESIDENTIAL DECREE. THIS NEWLY-PUBLISHED DATA MAY
BE RESULT OF AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTING TO MARCOS JUNE 23
THAT HIS LAUDABLE ACTIONS MAY NOT BE FULLY APPRECIATED
BECAUSE OF SKETCHY PUBLICITY. WE WILL CHECK WITH CHURCH
SOURCES SOON FOR THEIR ANALYSIS AND CONFIRMATION OF THESE
RELEASES. END SUMMARY.

2. "BULLETIN TODAY" AND "TIMES JOURNAL" JUNE 25 REPORT
MALACANANG PRESS STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS
ORDERED THE RELEASE OF A TOTAL OF 2,081 PERSONS FROM
MILITARY DETENTION CENTERS SINCE APRIL 7 IBP ELECTIONS.
FACT THEY WERE IN MILITARY DETENTION SUGGESTS AT LEAST
SOME WERE HELD FOR NATIONAL SECURITY (I.E., "POLITICAL")
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CRIMES. THE LIST CONSISTS OF 631 PERSONS GIVEN AMNESTY
JUNE 10 UNDER PRESIDENTIAL DECREES 95 AND 124 (MANILA
9761); AND 1,450 OTHER PERSONS WHO WERE REPORTED EITHER
TEMPORARILY RELEASED "FOR HUMAN OR OTHER LEGITIMATE
CONSIDERATIONS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE FURTHER PROSECU-
TION/DISPOSITION OF THEIR CASES, OR WERE PERMANENTLY
RELEASED BY REASON OF THEIR AQUITTAL OR THE DISMISSAL,

WITHDRAWAL, NOL PROS (NON-PROSECUTION) OF THEIR CASES."
NO BREAKDOWN OF TEMPORARY VS PERMANENT RELEASES WAS GIVEN.
INCLUDED IN THE 1,450, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, WERE THE
606 LABAN LEADERS AND OTHERS ARRESTED DURING THE PROTEST
MARCH APRIL 9, NEARLY ALL OF WHOM WERE RELEASED A FEW DAYS
LATER (MANILA 9231); AND THE EIGHT PERSONS (INCLUDING
ANTONIA NEPOMUCENO) HELD IN THE LOPEZ/OSMENA CASE (MANILA
9761). THE LATTER WERE TEMPORARILY RELEASED PENDING RE-
SUMPTION OF THEIR TRIAL, WHICH MARCOS SUSPENDED "BECAUSE
OF THE ABSENCE OF THE PRINCIPAL ACCUSED," WHO ESCAPED FROM
DETENTION AND THE COUNTRY LAST OCTOBER. WE CANNOT ACCOUNT
FOR THE REMAINING 836; THEY MAY BE NEWLY-ORDERED RELEASES.
PERHAPS THEY INCLUDE THE 199 WHOSE CHARGES WERE DROPPED
JUNE 16 (MANILA 10209).

3. THE PRESS ARTICLES NOTE THAT, IN ADDITION, MARCOS
ORDERED EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY JUNE 13 FOR 522 OTHER PERSONS,
PRESUMABLY IN CIVILIAN JAILS.

4. THE SAME ARTICLES REPORT THAT AMNESTY COMMISSION
CHAIRMAN BG HAMILTON DIMAYA ANNOUNCED JUNE 25 THAT HE HAS
RECOMMENDED AMNESTY UNDER P.D. 1429 FOR 306 MORE PERSONS.
MARCOS WILL MAKE FINAL DETERMINATION SOMETIME LATER. IT
IS NOT STATED WHETHER THIS IS THE COMPLETE RESULT OF THE
COMMISSION'S CONSIDERATION OF 730 APPLICATIONS BEGUN
JUNE 21 (MANILA 10544). NO NAMES ARE PROVIDED IN THIS
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CATEGORY.

5. ALL THREE MAJOR DAILIES BEGAN SERIALIZING JUNE 25 THE
APPARENTLY FULL LISTS OF NAMES OF THE 631 AMNESTY
RECIPIENTS AND THE 1,450 DETAINEES ORDERED RELEASED.
PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY TICKER ITEM JUNE 13 PROVIDED NAME
LIST OF THE 522 GIVEN EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY, BUT NO PAPER
PUBLISHED THEM.

6. THE PUBLISHED LISTS ARE UNDIFFERENTIATED AND ONLY
PARTIALLY ALPHABETIZED, MAKING ANALYSIS VERY DIFFICULT.
EMBASSY HAS NO FACILITIES FOR NAME-BY-NAME CHECK IN ANY
EVENT. WE ANTICIPATE CHURCH'S TASK FORCE ON DETAINEES,
THROUGH ITS CARD FILES AND CONTACTS INSIDE THE DETENTION
CENTERS, WILL EVENTUALLY PRODUCE A STUDY OF HOW MANY OF
THOSE NAMED THEY CONSIDER TO BE POLITICAL PRISONERS AND
HOW MANY OF THESE HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN RELEASED.

7. COMMENT: THIS FLURRY OF DATA ON DETAINEE RELEASES AND
AMNESTIES APPARENTLY STEMS FROM AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION
WITH MARCOS JUNE 23. AMBASSADOR MENTIONED THAT SKETCHY
PRESS COVERAGE OF RECENTLY REPORTED LARGE-SCALE RELEASES
OF DETAINEES WAS PERHAPS DEPRIVING MARCOS AND GOP OF FULL

PUBLIC RECOGNITION FOR THESE LAUDABLE ACTIONS. WE ARE
ANXIOUS TO SEE WHETHER TASK FORCE CONFIRMS THE RELEASES
HAVE ACTUALLY TAKEN PLACE. MURPHY

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